



**ISV Australia participants after a hard day of planting**

## ISV Checklist

### Have you turned in the following?

- Flight/Options Form and applicable Deposit(s)
- Copy of Passport
- Proof of Travel/Medical Insurance
- Project Preference Form (coming soon)
- Total Balance

### Due dates link:

[www.isvonline.com/ausduedates.html](http://www.isvonline.com/ausduedates.html)

## About the Land of Oz

- Australia was once called New Holland as the first Europeans to discover the country were Dutch.
- Australia is the driest continent on earth that is populated (Antarctica is the driest).
- The Great Barrier Reef is the largest organism on earth.
- QANTAS (your airline for the ISV Group Flight) stands for Queensland and Northern Territories Airline Service

### Ozzie Slang

Greenie

"Environmentalist"

Thank you for choosing to volunteer with ISV this summer! We hope you are ready to step out of your comfort zone to challenge yourself in new ways and to get your hands a little dirty while assisting Australians conserve our natural environment.

My name is Narelle Best and I am the International Programme Director. I am based in Sydney and oversee our Australian programme. ISV's staff are very proud of our programme and I know that you are in for some incredible times. Australia is a country of astounding biodiversity. Unfortunately, Australians have learned the hard way from our poor land management practices of the past 200 years. Today, Australia is faced with many environmental



and sustainability challenges. Volunteers are incredibly important to our environmental management plans, and the conservation volunteer work that you will be doing is carefully planned to address these issues, particularly with respect to habitat degradation and loss. About my background: I was born and raised in the beautiful state of Tasmania and now live in Sydney close to the world-famous Bondi Beach. I was a participant on an ISV program in 1999 and in the years since have been leading

tours, projects and now am involved in programme set-up and management full time. I am also studying part time on a Master's Degree studying sustainable development. I look forward to introducing you to Australia through our ISV program and hope that your one month with us is one of the most inspiring, educational, rewarding and fun experiences of your life, just as it was of me a few years ago.

Please prepare yourself mentally and physically for this adventure. Carefully reading the materials we send you, and do some research on Australia before you depart. The little bit of time and effort will really help you maximize your time down under. Thanks again for volunteering with ISV – I hope to see you in a few months time.

*Narelle Best*

**ISV International Programme Director**

## Research Your Host Country

The most interesting and exciting study you have ever done will be the preparation for your upcoming adventure to Australia. Start accessing websites and other literature that will help you learn about the culture, history, music, food, politics and natural environment of this fascinating country. Try to find out interesting facts to share with your group members. On project you will find that your research will be useful in contribution to the group discussion as well as incorporating it into your field journal. Some suggested topics to look up for Australia are Australia's Environment (<http://www.environment.gov.au/index.html>), Australian World Heritage Listed Areas (<http://whc.unesco.org/> - search for Australia), Australian History (<http://www.dfat.gov.au/aib/history.html>) and sport (such as Cricket or Australian Rules Football, AFL).

## Flight/Options Form

If you have not already submitted one, please remember that your Flight/Options Form is due 105 days prior to your departure. You will be getting a student care email from our office 10 days before your form is due to remind you about this. Please remember we do need a Flight/Options Form from you regardless if you are taking the Group Flight or arranging your own flight. You may also sign up for the Fiji Excursion on the Flight/Options Form.